Scarce and Rare birds in Wales 2012

Cymdeithas Adaryddol Cymru

Welsh Ornithological Society

Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2012

Introduction	**p 3**
Systematic List of Accepted Records	**p 5**

Editor: Jon Green

Front cover photo. Yellowthroat by R. Stonier.

Published on the internet in November 2013 by
The Welsh Ornithological Society
ISSN 2045-6263
Charity No. 1037823

Introduction

This is the fifteenth annual report of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2012.

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2012	0	5	4	17	37	49	35	147
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137
2009	1	4	1	19	50	8	25	108
2008	0	6	8	17	32	13	34	110
2007	2	6	7	5	10	5	3	39
2006	1	5	4	5	18	12	12	57

The table above suggests that 2012 was a bumper year, but when you take out the 39 Glossy Ibises, 8 Rose-coloured Starlings and at least 7 Great White Egrets, then the year was as much as any other. Highlights included the 2nd Welsh record for Yellowthroat, on the outskirts of Newport of all places (who needs islands to find yanks), the 3rd Kumlein's for Wales and the 5th Semi-P. The RSPB's Spotted Crake census found none but did reveal at least five calling / breeding Baillon's Crakes, seen by only a handful of lucky people, heard by many more.

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new BOU British List (2011) and includes all those records assessed by the WRP along with those accepted by BBRC (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders of all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WRP welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied by supporting evidence. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other species to assess from County Recorders and Editors. These are not detailed in this report.

WRP would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helping in the assessment process.

Scarce species (assessed by WRP) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of Jan. 1st 2012 the full list of species which the Panel considers is as follows:

Bean Goose, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Surf Scoter, White-billed Diver, Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Wilson's Petrel, Night Heron, Great White Egret, Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, White Stork, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone-Curlew, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Bearded Tit, Short-toed Lark, Shore Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Greenish Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Radde's Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Barred Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Rose-coloured Starling, Nightingale, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Red-throated Pipit, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Serin, Common Redpoll, Arctic Redpoll, Common Rosefinch, Corn Bunting, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Rustic Bunting and Little Bunting.

As of 1st January 2013 Glossy Ibis was added to the WRP list and as of 1st January 2014, Olive-backed Pipit will be added to the WRP list, when that similarly drops off the BBRC list.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (ie. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some case the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WRP welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.
BBRC have requested submission of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, British Birds 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WRP will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WRP would like to receive reports are Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*, Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*, Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*, Razorbill – *torda*, Little Auk – *polaris*, Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*, Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*, Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis,* Treecreeper – *familaris,* Coal Tit – *ater*, Jay – *glandarius,* Jackdaw – *monedula,* Redpolls – *islandica / rostrata,* and Bullfinch –*pyrrhula*.

In the systematic list the figures following each species / race name refer to the number of accepted individuals in Wales up to 1991 [included in Birds in Wales (Lovegrove et al)], since 1991 but not including 2012 and finally the number this year. Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases to improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras.
The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in italics) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and also the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.
The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2012 they were: Reg Thorpe (Chairman) – Caernarfon, Mike Powell – Glamorgan, Steve Culley – Anglesey, Marc Hughes – Caernarfon, Richard Dobbins - Pembroke, Steve Stansfield - Bardsey and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. WRP is always on the lookout for new members, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WRP Secretary.
Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WRP description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WRP Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561).** The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs of electronic form, either on disc or by e-mail: **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**
Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for information are found in appendix 1.

Systematic List of Accepted Records in 2012

Bean Goose (- , 13, 6)
Anser fabalis *Gwydd y Llafur*
Breeds in the Arctic and colder boral zones. Range has contracted in Norway and Sweden in recent times.
Flint: two, tundra race, Shotwick Fields, 4th Jan (B. Barnacal).
Montgomery: three, tundra race, Dolydd Hafren, 28th – 29th Jan. (M. Hughes, P. Leafe).
Caernarfon: single of tundra race, Spinnies N.R., Caernarfon, 1st Feb - 2nd Mar. (B. Stammers et al).

Bean Goose, Dolydd Hafren by M. Hughes.

Bean Goose, Spinnies by S. Culley.

Ring-necked Duck (12, 25, 1)
Aythya collaris *Hwyaden Dorchog*
Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.
Pembroke: immature male, Skomer 8th – 15th Nov. (D. Boyle), then at Marloes Mere 28th Dec. until April 2013 (R. Kelsh et al).

Ring-necked Duck, left on Skomer by D. Boyle, right at Marloes by DJ Astins.

Ferruginous Duck (35, 6, 1)
Aythya nyroca *Hwyaden Lygadwen*
A rare visitor from southern Europe.
E. Glamorgan: female, Lisvane Res., Cardiff 6th Apr. (R. Thomas).

Lesser Scaup (0, 3, 0)

Aythya affinis *Hwyaden Benddu Leiaf*

Breeds from C Alaska through Canada to Hudson Bay & S to Washington & South Dakota. Isolated populations E of Great Lakes. Winters along both coastlines of USA, in E from New Jersey to Mexico, W Indies, C America to N Colombia.

E. Glamorgan: male, Cosmeston Lakes / Cardiff Bay, 28th Dec. 2011 until 28th Apr., returning 25th Aug (P. Bristow et al, per County Recorder).

Surf Scoter (22, 29, 2)

Melanitta perspicillata *Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyn*

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Caern. / Denbigh: three males, north Wales coast, 6th Nov. 2011 remaining in that area into 2012, reported 14th – 4th Apr., (M. Hughes et al).
Presumed the same returning 28th Aug, then 12th Oct. until 2013 (per M. Hughes).

Caernarfon: female, Porthdinllaen, 24th Jan – 23rd Feb. (M. Hughes).

Pembroke: female, Broad Haven, 22nd Dec. into 2013 (DJ Astins et al).

The three males have been wintering off the north Wales coast for the last three years.

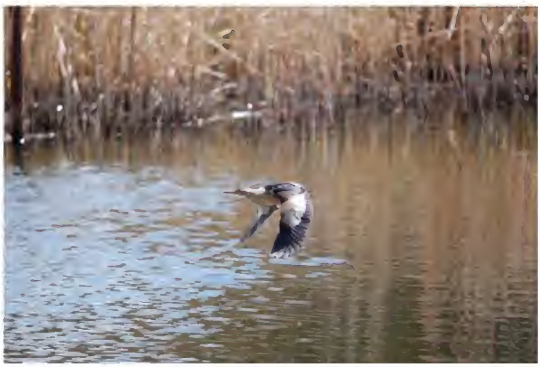
Little Bittern (41, 7 ,1)

Ixobrychus minutus

Aderyn-bwn-leiaf

Widespread, patchy & declining in Europe N to 53ºN. To E, breeds to 60ºN in Russia, & E to Kazakhstan & NW China. W Pal. population migratory, wintering mainly in E Africa, S from Sudan & Ethiopia. Other populations largely resident or dispersive in N Indian subcontinent, sub-Saharan Africa & Australia.

Pembroke: 1st summer male, Teifi Marshes, 19th – 20th Apr. (S. Bebb et al).



Little Bittern by M. Young-Powell.

Great White Egret (5, 37, 7)

Ardea alba *Creyr Mawr Gwyn*

Breeds Netherlands in small numbers and from Hungary eastwards to Japan and south Australia, Africa south of the Sahara also southern North, Central and South America. European population winters mostly in the north Mediterranean. This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list as of Jan. 1st 2006.

Brecon: Llangorse 18th Dec. 2011 until 25th Mar. 2012 (per County recorder).

Flint: two, Inner Marsh Farm, 4th Jan. (S. Davies).

Gwent: Goldcliff, 22nd Mar. (H. Davies, T. Griffiths).
NWR, 5th June (G. Smith).
NWR, 18th – 23rd Nov. (K. Dupe, S. Dupe, C. Hurn, M. Meehan).

Pembroke: Fishguard, 4th Sept. (S. Berry).
Ramsey 15th May (G. Morgan).

Carm/Gower: two on the Burry Inlet from 2011 into 2013 (per County Recorders).

Carmarthen: one in the Tywi Valley from 2011, White Mill – Dinefwr Ponds, until 2nd Apr (per County Recorder).

Purple Heron (38, 19, 1)
Ardea purpurea *Creyr Porffor*
Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.
Pembroke: St. David's Head, 27th Mar. (M. Young-Powell).

Black Stork (5, 4, 1)
Ciconia nigra
Ciconia Du
A vagrant.
Ceredigion: one, Llangeitho, Tregaron, 27th May (photo L & M. Tordoff).

White Stork (- , 23, 4)
Ciconia ciconia *Ciconai Gwyn*
Migrant in warmer Boreal to warm temperate zones, USSR, China and central Europe.
2012 Gwent: four, Dingestow, 5th – 9th June (D. Price et al).
2010 Gwent: single over the M4, 28th May (E. Drewitt).

White Storks at Dingestow by N. Casburn.

Glossy Ibis (11, 36, 39)
Plegadis falcinellus *Crymanbig Ddu*
Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East.
Anglesey: Valley & Malltraeth, 2nd Mar – 2013 (photo, per County Recorder).
Carm. : Penclacwydd, 28th Aug (photo, E. Boughey, B. Stewart).
Ceredigion: Borth, 3rd – 21st Feb (photo. M .Bailey, R. Jones et al).
Gwent: one, then two, GWR, 14th – 31st Jan, (photo CC Mendez et al).
Montgom.: Montgomery, 24th Feb. – 30th Apr. (per birding information services).

Pembroke: two, Neyland, 12th Jan. (A. Hansen).
two, St. David's, 13th Jan. – 1st Feb. (M. Young-Powell, per County Recorder).
one, Sageston, 14th Jan. (M. Arnold, per County Recorder).
three at Marloes Mere, 18th Jan until 12th May when another bird had joined them. Four reported here until 9th June, with one remaining until 2013 (M. Howe, per County Recorder).
23, Carew, 28th Jan – 14th Feb (R. Ellis et al, per County Recorder).
one, Walwyn's Castle, 28th – 31st Jan. (D & L Bowen, P. Lewis).
2011: Angle: Mallthraeth RSPB 15th – 28th Nov (not as previously published).
As the number of records of this species has increased, almost exponentially, over the last few years, so this species has dropped off the BBRC list onto the WRP one as of 1st Jan. 2013.

23 Glossy Ibis over Carew by R. Crossen, below 3 at Marloes by M. Young-Powell.

Black Kite (6, 8, 3)

Milvus migrans *Barcud du*

Pembroke: near Letterston / Fishguard, 30th Apr. – 2nd May (C. Hurford et al).
Ceredigion: Llanrhystud, 2nd May (A. Williams).
Caernarfon: Bardsey, 26th May (M. Carter, S. Hinde et al).
Quite possibly both the Pembroke & Ceredigion records relate to the same bird. The one on Bardsey was the 2nd for that island.

Black Kite, Letterston by C. Hurford. Black Kite over Bardsey by SD Stansfield.

Rough-legged Buzzard (- , 9, 1)

Buteo lagopus *Bod Bacsiog*

A very rare winter visitor.
Anglesey: Cemaes, 12th Dec. (C. Davies). Photos below.

Corn Crake (-, 45, 1)

Crex crex *Rhegen yr Yd*

Very rare breeding bird in Britain, mainly in north & western Scotland and Ireland. Last bred in Wales in 1994.
2012 Anglesey: calling male, Tregele, 19th – 25th July (E. Owen, per County Recorder).
2011 Anglesey: calling male, South Stack, 13th – 21st May (KG Croft).

Baillon's Crake (3, 0, 5+)
Porzana pusilla *Rhegen Baillon*
Locally common breeder from Spain through Mediterranean basin to Ukraine. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.
Anglesey: initially one, increasing to at least four, possibly six, 22nd May – 14th July, Malltraeth RSPB (I. Hawkins et al).
Ceredigion: Ynyshir RSPB, 7th – 19th June (R.Jones).
The National Spotted Crake survey produced one of the year's most unexpected events. The only other Welsh records were from Llandeilo, Carmarthen 6th Nov. 1905, Llanwit Major, E. Glamorgan 8th Feb. 1976 and on Bardsey, Caernarfon 16th June 1990.

Common Crane (19, 23, 4)
Grus grus *Garan*
A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa.
Denbigh: two, Fenn's Moss, 24th Mar. – 21st May (per County Recorder)
E. Glam.: two Dowlais, 8th Apr. (G. Jenkins).
The two Denbigh birds summered in the Whixall / Fenn's Moss area and were seen on an off during their stay on the Welsh side of the moss.

Black-winged Stilt (11, 6, 1)
Himantopus himantopus
Hirgoes
Breeds along Atlantic coast of France and locally throughout Mediterranean basin to Black Sea. To E, breeds from S Siberia and C Asia to NW China. Most European birds winter in sub-Saharan Africa and, increasingly, in SW Iberia. Asian breeders winter across S and SE Asia and S China. Other races occur in Australasia, the Americas and Hawaii.
Gwent: 25th May, NWR (photo per County Recorder).

Stone Curlew (27, 13, 1)
Burhinus oedicnemus *Rhedwr y Moelydd*
Scarce breeding bird in SE England. Commoner on mainland Europe.
E. Glamorgan: Sker, 27th Mar. (DC Bolt, DG Carrington).

Kentish Plover (28, 15, 1)
Charadrius alexandrinus *Cwtiad Caint*
Formerly bred in the UK. Now a scarce migrant from the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe.
Ceredigion: male, Ynyslas, 20th Apr. (R. Jones).

American Golden Plover (3, 9, 1)
Pluvialis dominica
Corgwtiad Aur
Breeds on coastal tundra from extreme NE Siberia, E across N Alaska and Canada to Baffin Island. Migrates over W Atlantic to wintering grounds in S South America.
This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list, as of Jan. 1st 2006.
Anglesey: juv. Malltraeth Cobb, 5th Sept. (P. Brierley, per County Recorder).Photo opposite by G. Morgan.

Pectoral Sandpiper (65, 54, 5)
Calidris melanotos *Pibydd Cain*
Breeds northeast Siberia and northern North America. Winters in southern South America.

2012 Gwent:	Goldcliff, 16th May (M. Powell, D. Fisher).
2012 Pembroke:	three individuals on Skokholm, 16th – 21st Sept (M. Hipkin, M. Young-Powell).
2012 Ceredigion:	Ynyslas, 19th Sept. (A. Williams).
2008 Den./Caern.	Conwy RSPB, 13th – 14th (P. Calton, per Ch. Jones).

Pectoral Sandpiper, Skokholm by M. Young-Powell.

Baird's Sandpiper (9, 7, 1)
Calidris bairdii *Pibydd Baird*
Breeds extreme NE Siberia on Chukotski peninsula and Wrangel Island, E across N Alaska and Arctic Canada, to N Baffin Island and NW Greenland. Migrates through North American interior to winter in South American Andes, from S Ecuador to Tierra del Fuego.
Pembroke: juv. West Angle Beach, 20th – 26th Aug. (C. Hurford et al, photo below).

Semi-palmated Sandpiper (2, 3, 1)
Calidris pusilla *Pibydd y Tywod*
Breeds on tundra of W Alaska, E across Arctic Canada to S Baffin Island & coastal Labrador. Has bred extreme NE Siberia. Migrates across Great Plains & E seaboard of USA to winter C America & coasts of tropical South America to Brazil & Peru.
Ceredigion: Dyfi Estuary, Ynyslas / Ynyshir, 20th – 22nd Sept. (photo. AC Lees et al).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (31, 28, 1)
Calidris subruficollis *Pibydd Bronllwyd*
Breeds in Alaska and North-west Canada, winters in northern Argentina and Uruguay.
Gwent: Goldcliff, 8th & 9th Sept. (per County Recorder).

Long-billed Dowitcher (5, 9, 0)

Limnodromus scolopaceus *Giach Gylfin-hir*

Breeds primarily in Arctic Siberia where range is expanding W to Lena River delta. North American range restricted to coastal tundra of W and N Alaska, and E to Mackenzie River. Migrates through USA to winter from coastal S USA to N Central America.

Carmarthen: 1st winter, Kidwelly 29th Sept. 2011 until 20th Apr. 2012.
probably the same returning bird at Penclacwydd 28th – 29th Oct
(photo. RHA Taylor, per B. Stewart), also seen on the Gower side.
photo below.

Cream-coloured Courser (3, 0, 1)

Cursorius cursor *Rhedwr y Twyni*

Breeds Cape Verde & Canary Islands E across deserts of N Africa, S to Chad & Sudan, & through Middle East to Turkmenistan, Iran, Afghanistan & Pakistan. Western populations resident, or dispersive to deserts S of breeding range, while eastern breeders winter from S Iran to deserts of NW India.

Radnor: Stanner, 23rd May (M. Eaton et al).

A couple of lucky observers saw the Herefordshire bird flying off to the west and over the hill into Wales.

"Richard Gregory and I arrived at the area of Bradnor Hill being used by the Cream-coloured Courser sometime around 1140 hrs on 23/5/2012. Immediately on our arrival the courser was disturbed by golfer, flew up, circled around a couple of times then flew off gradually gaining height. I watched it until it was a tiny dot, still heading away on a bearing more or less due west (I checked this on a map later – it flew in the direction of Stanner, passing well to the north of Hergest Ridge). Although I did not time this, I may well have watched it in flight for 3-4 minutes and would estimate it was at least two miles away when it vanished from my sight. This would put it firmly into Welsh airspace."

This species has only been recorded three times in Wales, the first shot in North Wales in 1793, the next shot at Ynyslas, Ceredigion on 2nd Oct. 1886, finally a live bird seen at Cefn Sidan, Carmarthen on 23rd Oct. 1968.

Gull-billed Tern (9, 4, 2)

Gelochelidon nilotica *Morwennol Ylfinbraff*

In Europe, small population breeds N Germany & Denmark. Widespread though local Spain, elsewhere colonies small & isolated. To E, breeds discontinuously from Turkey & SW Russia through Kazakhstan, Mongolia & NW China, with isolated population NE China. European population winters coastal W Africa, S to Gulf of Guinea. Asian populations winter Persian Gulf to Indian subcontinent & SE Asia. Other races occur Australia & the Americas.

Carm. / Gower: Loughor Bridge & Penclacwydd, Burry Inlet, adult 24th – 27th June (photo B. Stewart et al).

Ceredigion: Ynyslas, 2nd – 6th Aug. (photo J. Baxter, et al per Welsh Recorder).

Gull-billed Terns, left on the Burry Inlet by B. Stewart, right at Ynyslas by J. Baxter.

Bonaparte's Gull (3, 13, 2)

Chroicocephalus Philadelphia *Gwylan Bonaparte*

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

E. Glamorgan: adult, Cardiff Bay, 22nd Jan – 31st Mar. (GN Smith et al).
1st w, Cardiff Bay, 17th – 25th Feb. (DK Campbell, IR Jones et al).

Pembroke: adult, Strumble Head, 16th – 20th Oct. (R. Liford, C. Hurford, A. Rogers et al).

The adult in Cardiff Bay, has been seen there for the last four years and was also reported on the other side of the Severn Estuary in Somerset.

Ring-billed Gull (- , - , 0)

Larus delawarensis *Gwylan Fodrwybig*

Pembroke: adult, Llys y fran Res. 8th Jan. – 8th Mar., returning 8th Nov. onwards (DJ Astins, PK Grennard).

Cere/Pemb: 2nd year, Cardigan, 1st – 10th Mar. (J. Green, R. Dobbins, W. James).

Both birds were returning individuals.

Kumlein's Gull (0, 2, 1)

Larus glaucoides kumleini *Gwylan yr Arctig*

Very rare vagrant from Greenland.

E. Glamorgan: adult, Cosmeston, 23rd Nov (D. Rich)

The only other records came from Llys y fran, Pembroke in 1998 and then from Blackpill, wintering annually from 1998 – 2000.

Bee-eater (29, 27, 3)
Merops apiaster *Gwybedog y Gwenyn*
Scarce visitor from Mediterranean Europe.
Pemb: Strumble Head 19th May (R. Stonier). Photo below.
Angle: Cemlyn, 27th May (D. Wright).
Caern: Bardsey, 30th May (C. Piner per SD Stansfield).

Golden Oriole (-, 13+, 2)
Oriolus oriolus *Euryn*
Rare visitor from Mediterranean Europe.
Pembroke: 1st year male, St. David's Head, 8th May (M. Young-Powell).
Caernarfon: imm. / female, Bardsey, 6th June (SD Stansfield).

Red-backed Shrike (- , 66, 2)
Lanius collurio
Cigydd Cefngoch
Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe.
Caernarfon: juv., Great Orme, 26th Aug. (R. Sandham).
Pembroke: juv., Wooltack Point, Marloes, 9th Sept. (DJ Astins, P. Grennard).
Photo opposite by DJ Astins.

Woodchat (67, 34, 3)
Lanius senator
Cigydd Pengoch
Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.
Caernarfon: male, Bardsey, 3rd June (SD Stansfield), photo opposite.
female, Great Orme, 10th June (P. Alderton).
Anglesey: male, Cemlyn, 12th July (L. Palmer).

Jackdaw (- , 1, 1)
Corvus monedula *Jac y do*
Individuals showing characteristics of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:
Pembroke: Haverfordwest for the last three years (DJ Astins).
St. David's, April 2012 (B. Davies).

The Haverfordwest bird has been present in the same housing estate for the last three years, while the other record was of one photographed in St. David's. Others have been reported from Newcastle Emlyn, Fishguard, Pembroke, Cricieth but not photographed and more recently at least two in Llandudno in 2013. The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore the panel requests and many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

"Nordic Jackdaws", left in Haverfordwest by DJ Astins, above in St. Davies by B. Davies.

Bearded Tit (- , - , -)
Panurus biarmicus *Titw Barfog*
Resident in the UK (mainly the south East). Erruptive. Bred in Wales in one's or twos mid 1960's – 1980. Rare since.
Individuals have bred for the last five years at the Uskmouth reed-beds of the Newport Wetland Reserve. Due to annual dispersals, descriptions are only required for records away from Gwent & E. Glamorgan.
Brecon: pair, Llangorse, 28th Feb. – 9th Mar. (P. Seaman, K. Noble, W. Geater et al).
E. Glam.: two males, Kenfig NNR, 29th – 30th May (DG Carrington, J. Vafidis).

Bearded Tit at Llangorse by W. Geater.

Short-toed Lark (12, 18, 2)
Calandrella brachydactyla
Ehedydd Llwyd
Rare visitor. Breeds from Iberia, southern France and NW Africa east to Manchuria.
Ceredigion: Ynyshir, 29th May (R. Jones).
Anglesey: Trewan Common, 2nd – 3rd May (C. Lane, per County Recorder).
Photo opposite by S. Culley.

Red-rumped Swallow (8, 9, 3)

Hirundo daurica *Gwennol Dingoch*

Breeds Iberia, southern France and northwest Africa; Balkans east to Japan and south to Sri Lanka; central Africa. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 30th May (S. Hinde, photo B. Porter below left).
Denbigh: Conwy RSPB, 3rd Sept. (R. Hughes).
Gwent: Goldcliff, 4th – 6th May (J. Bennett). Photo below right.

Greenish Warbler (8, 6, 4)

Phylloscopus trochiloides *Telor Gwyrdd*

A vagrant.

Caernarfon: male, Bardsey, 8th June (B. Porter, SD Stansfield et al).
Bardsey, 30th June (S. Hinde, R. Brown).
Great Orme, 29th Aug. (M. Hughes).
Pembroke: Skomer, 8th Sept. (D. Boyle).

Greenish Warblers, above on Bardsey by SD Stansfield and right on Skomer by D. Boyle.

Raddes Warbler (3, 4, 1)

Phylloscopus schwarzi *Telor Radde*

Breeds in S Siberia from Novosibirsk region E to Ussuriland and NE China. Migrates through E China to winter in N Burma, Indochina and C Thailand. This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list, as of Jan. 1st 2006.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 14th Oct. (I. Wright, JR Jones).

Radde's Warbler trapped on Bardsey by SD Stansfield.

Chiffchaff *tristis* (- , 10, 2)

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Uncommon autumn / wintering migrant. Status unclear.

2012 Den./Caern.: Conwy RSPB, 29th Jan. - 15th Mar. (W. Mills).
2012 Caernarfon: Bardsey, 29th Oct. (SD Stansfield).
2011 Anglesey: Llyn Coron, 9th Nov. - 2012 (Z. Hinchcliffe, S. Culley et al).
2009 Caernarfon: Bardsey, 10th – 13th Nov. (SD Stansfield).
2008 Den./Caern.: Conwy RSPB, 30th Nov. – 24th Dec. (M. Hughes).
2007 Caernarfon: Bardsey, 20th Apr. (SD Stansfield).
2007 E. Glamorgan: Kenfig, 6th Nov. – 21st Dec. (J. Hunt, RG Smith et al).

After many years of toing and froing, following either the BBRC or Dutch Birding stances, WRP has decided that it will only accept records of *tristis*, if:

- series of good, clear photographs obtained, showing all relevant features
- the characteristic call is heard and described
- or where there is a good quality description with a recording of the call

Three other records were assessed and deemed NOT PROVEN, due to the new criteria that WRP is using. These included two caught on Bardsey 22nd Apr. 2008, which were not heard to call and one at Llandudno 3rd Apr. 2012 where the photos were not of a good enough quality to allow assessment.

tristis Chiffchaff – Kenfig.

Barred Warbler (40, 42, 3)

Sylvia nisoria *Telor Rhesog*

Breeds from north Italy, Germany and south Sweden eastwards to Mongolia. Winters northeast Africa south to Kenya and southern Arabia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 29th Sept. – 6th Oct. (M. Carter, photo SD Stansfield).
Pembroke: Skomer, 6th Oct. (D. Boyle).
Anglesey: Breakwater Quarry CP, 29th Sept.(KG Croft et al).

Barred Warblers, left on Bardsey by SD Stansfield, right on Skomer by D. Boyle.

Subalpine Warbler (18, 34, 1)

Sylvia cantillans *Telor Brongoch*

Rare migrant from Europe.

Caernarfon: female, Bardsey, 14th May (S. Hinde, photo B. Porter, below),

Melodious Warbler (142, 63, 6)

Hippolais polyglotta *Telor Per*

Breeds northeast Africa, Iberia, France, Switzerland and Italy. Winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.

2012 Caern.:	Bardsey, 3rd June (SD Stansfield).
	Bardsey, 6th Aug. (R. Brown).
	Bardsey, 7th – 18th Sept. (G. Eagle).
2012 Pembroke:	Skokholm, 2nd – 3rd Sept. (S. Sutcliffe).
	Skokholm, 15th - 17th Sept. (M. Young-Powell).
	Skokholm, 6th Oct. (L. Yates).
2008 Caern:	Great Orme, 17th May (M. Hughes).

Melodious Warblers, left on Bardsey by SD Stansfield, right on Skokholm by M. Young-Powell.

Rose-coloured Starling (26, 61, 8)
Sturnus roseus
Drudwen Wridog
Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally erupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.
Ceredigion: adult, Ynyslas, 2nd – 9th Jul (G. Smith, photo).
adult, Llansaintfraid, 26th Aug. – 2nd Sept. (A. Morgan, photo).
Anglesey: adult, Valley, 18th – 24th June (N. Rowbotham, per County Recorder).
adult, Llangefni, 19th – 26th June (D & E Astbury, per County Recorder).
Denbigh: adult, Abergele, 16th – 18th June (J. Randles).
Pembroke: adult, Martin's Haven, Marloes, 5th June (T. Hutton, S. Tusa).
juv. Haverfordwest, 18th – 21st Oct. (K. Thomas), photo opposite.
Caernarfon:adult, Rhos-on-Sea, 16th – 24th June (per S. Culley), photo below.
2011 Anglesey: 1st winter, Holyhead, from 11th Oct. until 18 Apr (per County Recorder).

Red-breasted Flycatcher (126, 46, 3)
Ficdula parva
Gwybedog Brongoch
Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.
Caernarfon: female, Bardsey, 6th June (C. Piner, photo opposite SD Stansfield).
Pembroke: female / immature, Skokholm, 12th Oct. (L. Yates).
Anglesey: female / immature, Breakwater Quarry, 17th Oct. (KG Croft).

Desert Wheatear (1, 7, 1)
Oenanthe deserti *Tinwen Diffaethwch*
Vagrant. Breeds North Africa and from Caucasus across central Asia. Asian breeders winter Arabian Peninsular to NW India.
2012 Flint: female, Rhyl, 23rd – 26th Nov. (LJ Clarke, A. Cumberlidge, R. Sandham et al).
2011 Angle: male, North Stack, 26th Nov. (photo FM Lehman).

The first Welsh record came from Penclawdd, Gower 1989, followed by others at Peterstone, Gwent in 1996, Skokholm, Pembroke in 1997 & 2003 and finally at Towyn, Denbigh in 2008, Skomer, Pembroke 2011.

Female Desert Wheatear at Rhyl by R. Sandham.

Yellow Wagtail southern races "Southern Wagtails"
Motacilla flava cinereocapilla / iberiae
2008 Denbigh: male, Conwy RSPB, 28th – 30th Apr. (photo opposite by M. Hughes, R. Sandham et al).

Citrine Wagtail (0, 4, 1)

Motacilla citreola *Siglen Sitraidd*

Breeds in small, scattered colonies through S & E Europe from Iberia to Poland. Numerous & widespread from N Black Sea E to W Kazakhstan, with Volga/Ural River complex holding most of European population. Winters tropical W & C Africa & from Nile Delta to E Africa. Other populations in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa & Australia.

Caernarfon: 1st w, Bardsey, 10th – 11th Oct. (D. Waudby et al), photo by SD Stansfield.

Common Redpoll (- , 28 , 0)

Carduelis flammea *Llinos Bengoch*

2011 Gwent: Ebbw Vale, 3rd Mar. (A. Coles), photo below.

2008 Denbigh: 8th Apr. (J. Chicken)

As with *tristis* Chiffchaff, WRP has been holding back for several years on accepting / rejecting Common Redpoll claims, all down to the differing opinions across the UK as to what is a Common Redpoll. Birders on the "northern isles" and North-East are more used to seeing Common Redpolls and their criteria for ID is somewhat different from birders in the South-West. After many hours of discussion, WRP has decided to take the hard-line, that it will only accept records of individuals at the "Arctic" end of the spectrum of the Lesser → Common → Arctic cline, the larger, paler birds, showing well defined white coverts.

To allow WRP to assess this, only records accompanied with a series of good quality photographs will be accepted. Several records, kept on hold, over the last few years have therefore not made the grade and are therefore deemed Not Proven.

Common Rosefinch (39, 91, 5)

Carpodacus erythrinus *Llinos Goch*

Breeds from Germany and southern Sweden eastwards to Kamchatka and from Georgia eastwards to central China. Has bred in Britain on a few occasions. Winters in India, southeast Asia and southern China.

Caernarfon: 1st year male, Bardsey, 27th – 28th May (S. Hinde, SD Stansfield).
1st year male, Bardsey, 4th June (C. Piner, per SD Stansfield).
female / imm., Bardsey, 6th June (SD Stansfield).

Anglesey: 1st year male, Carmel Head, 10th June (M. Sutton).

Pembroke: 1st year male, Skokholm, 27th – 29th Aug. (T. Donohue, R. Hodgson, S. Sutcliffe).

Little Bunting (11, 13, 2)

Emberiza pusilla *Bras Lleiaf*

A rare visitor to Wales.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 26th Sept. (SD Stansfield), photo below by R. Barber.
Bardsey, 23rd Oct. (SD Stansfield).

Ortolan Bunting (105, 54, 1)

Emberiza hortulana *Bras y Gerddi*

Breeds continental Europe and Fenno-Scandia eastwards to northern Iran and Mongolia. Winters south Arabia and Sahel zone of the south Sahara.

Pembroke: St. David's Head, 8th Sept. (J & M Best).

Black-headed Bunting (11, 14, 1)
Emberiza melanocephala *Bras Penddu*
Breeds C Italy to Greece, Turkey, N Iraq, W Iran, & N through Caucasus to Ukraine & S Russia. Winters W & C India.
2012: Gower: male, Godre'r-graig, 17th June (photo B. Wood), photo below.
2012 Carms: male, same as above, Porthyrhyd, 18th – 24th June (G&A Evans, L. Hughes, C. McKee et al).
1994 Radnor: male, Rhayader, 3rd – 12th June (P. Jennings et al).

Common Yellowthroat (, 1, 1)
Geothylpis trichas
Breeds North America from SE Alaska E to Newfoundland, S to C California & S Texas, & Oaxaca & Vera Cruz, Mexico. Winters S USA, S through Mexico to Panama.
Gwent: 1st w male, Rhiwderin, near Newport, 10th Feb – 31st Mar (M. Broome).
The only other Welsh record was of a female on Bardsey, 27th Sept. 1996.

Identification agreed – but bird likely to be escaped/falconers:

Golden Eagle (- , 0, 0)
Aquila chrysaetos *Eryr Euraid*
Breeds in Scotland.
Ceredigion: 5th year, summered around the north of the county (per County Recorder).

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of the records were not accepted because the Panel were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	Site	County	Date
Great White Egret	Sarn	E Glam	11/12/2012
Purple Heron	Milford Haven	Pembroke	09/04/2012
Cranes, 2	Penrhiwfel	E Glam	10/10/2012
White-rumped Sandpiper	Newborough Warren	Anglesey	28/04/2012
Golden Oriole f	Wooltack Point, Marloes	Pembroke	11/05/2012
Golden Oriole f	St David's	Pembroke	26/05/2012
Chiffchaff - tristis	Bardsey	Caernarfon	22/04/2008
Chiffchaff - tristis	Bardsey	Caernarfon	22/04/2008
Chiffchaff - tristis	Llandudno	Denbigh	03/04/2012
Chiffchaff - tristis	Sudbrook	Gwent	30/1/11
Common Redpoll	Merthyr Tydfil	E. Glamorgan	19/12/10
Common Redpoll, 2	Cilcain	Denbigh	9/5/10
Common Redpoll	Carmel Head	Anglesey	25/05/2009
Common Redpoll		Gwent	24/4-3/5/08
Common Redpoll 2	Skomer	Pembroke	13/04/2012

BBRC Not-proven:

African Chaffinch	Derwenlas	Ceredigion	17/3/12

APPENDIX II - List of records that have been PENDED for more information or requiring further assessment.

American Wigeon female	Portmadog	Meirionnydd	16-17/9/10
Black Brant Goose	Whiteford	Gower	November 2011-2012
Kumlein's Gull	Pont Lyfni	Caernarfon	12-20/1/12